

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 30, 31, and 32 will have been amended for consideration by the Examiner.

In view of the herein contained remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action, together with an indication of the allowability of all of the claims pending in the present application.

Initially, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that the double patenting rejection has been withdrawn.

With respect to the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) of claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-10, 12, 13, 15-17, 19, 20, 22-24, 26, 27, and 29-31 over Dragon Quest IV as described by GONZALES, Applicants respectfully traverse the same.

In particular, Applicants respectfully assert that GONZALES does not disclose each and every claimed feature of the present invention.

The 1990 release of Dragon Quest IV, as described by GONZALES, includes game programming for selecting an action character from multiple action characters that can act at the present moment (characters outside a wagon) and then requires selecting another character from multiple standby characters (characters on the wagon) to be switched. In particular, GONZALES sets forth on page 9 a first step of choosing "Tactics in the Command Window," selecting "Switch," and then picking the characters. This is a multiple step process.

Moreover, GONZALES discloses that all of the outside characters must go into the wagon when all the characters are changed.

On the contrary, the present invention is directed to a more simplified character switching. Switching a member is one of the options that is provided to player with a player character that is waiting for a command input. The switching member command involves a single operation to switch a member (e.g. button L1 as shown in step S21 in figure 3 and described in the specification in the paragraph bridging pages 20-21) and further includes a quick member switch that is enabled even during battle. GONZALES does not disclose a single operation by the player to select a player as recited by independent claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 30, and 31. Moreover, GONZALES does not appear to disclose switching a player that is currently awaiting a command input (participating in battle) as further recited by claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 30, and 31.

Another feature of the present invention is displaying a list of standby characters when a player character in battle is awaiting an input command. As shown in figure 4A, window 405 includes a window 403 that lists characters along with bodily power and magical power values.

GONZALES does not disclose the feature of displaying a list of standby characters, when a player character in battle is awaiting an input command, that can be substituted, as recited by independent claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 30, and 31.

With respect to the claim 32 rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over GONZALES in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,106,399 to BAKER et al., Applicants

respectfully assert that GONZALES, as noted above, does not disclose a single operation by the player to select a player and does not disclose displaying a list of standby characters as recited by independent claim 32.

Similarly, BAKER et al. do not disclose a single operation by the player to select a player and displaying a list of standby characters. Moreover, there is no suggestion or disclosure in GONZALES or BAKER et al., separately or in any proper combination that render obvious these features of the present claimed invention.

With regard to dependent claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-21, and 23-28, Applicants assert that they are allowable on their own merit and at least because they depend on one of independent claims 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29-31, which Applicants submit have been shown to be allowable.

Furthermore, the applied references of TANIBUCHI et al. and YOSHIKAWA et al. also do not disclose a single operation by the player to select a player and displaying a list of standby characters as recited by the independent claims.

In response to the Examiner's first and second arguments on pages 3 and 4, Applicants maintain that the GONZALES document is not properly prior art. Regarding the Examiner's third argument on page 4, Applicants assert that the present amended claims now better address the single operation and thus further assert that the claims distinguish over the prior art as noted above.

In view of the fact that none of the art of record, whether considered alone or in any proper combination, discloses or suggests the present invention as defined by the pending claims, and in further view of the above remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

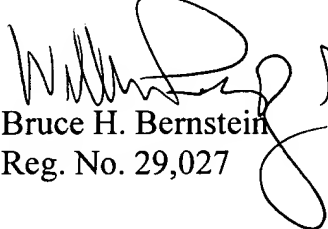
Pursuant to MPEP §714.13, Applicants contend that entry of the present amendment is appropriate because the proposed amended claims avoid the rejections set forth in the last Office Action, resulting in the application being placed in condition for allowance, or, alternatively, the revised claims place the application in better condition for purposes of appeal. Furthermore, the revised claims do not present any new issues that would require any further consideration and/or search by the Examiner. In this regard, the issue of the single operation has been a focal point of the invention and arguments throughout prosecution. Finally, the amendment does not present any additional claims without canceling a like number of pending claims. Accordingly, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that he has now done so. Applicant has pointed out the specific language of Applicant's claims that define over the references of record and respectfully request an indication to such effect, in due course.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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